

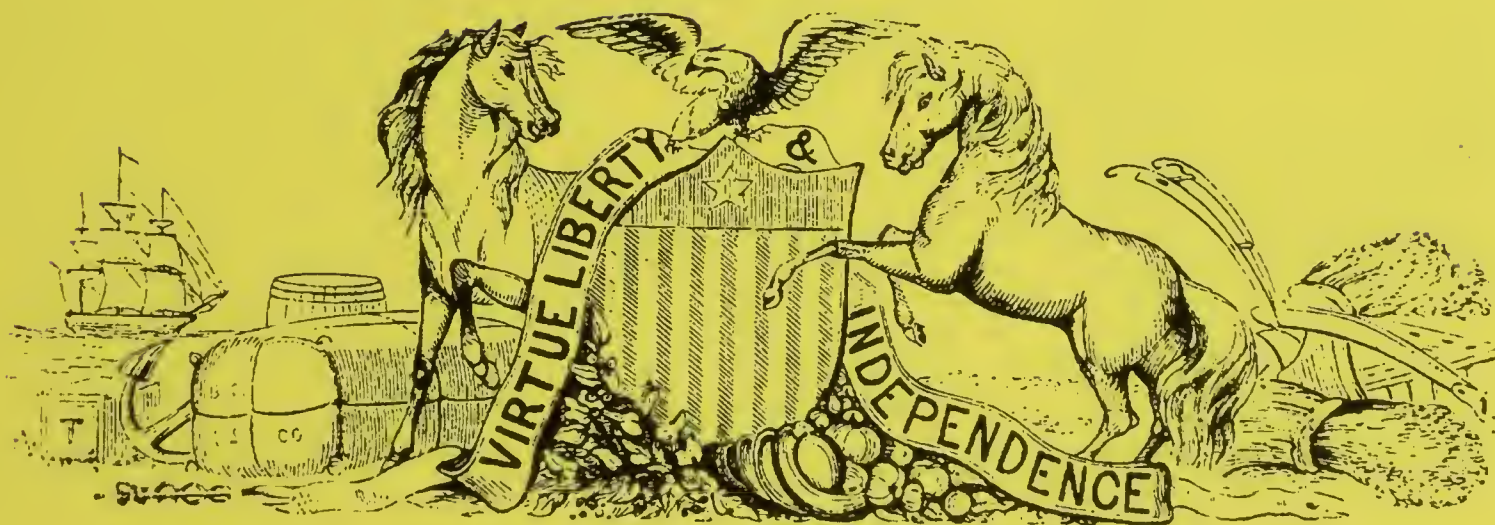


N.O.W. News

Vol. 43 No. 2

Summer I 2005

Numismatists of Wisconsin



Have a Safe Summer!

Numismatists of Wisconsin
is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation.
Your contributions are tax deductible

The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$5 per year and entitles participants to NOW News, this quarterly publication. Among the services offered are coin authentication, a Speaker's Bureau, show calendar coordination and guidelines to assist coin clubs hosting the annual NOW convention.



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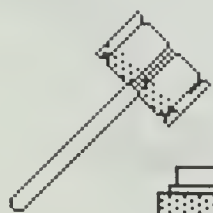
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February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1



President's Message

by Thad Streeter

Another NOW coin show is behind us and summer is finally here. I want to extend a big THANK YOU to Chet Krause, Cliff Mishler and Joel Edler for hosting the 45th Anniversary Event. Although I was only able to be there on Friday, what I experienced was a well-planned and well-attended event. My time was spent meeting with and talking to the many friends that I've made in the collecting and dealer communities. It was nice to see so many people coming to lola to enjoy their hobby and in many cases, their vocation. I was also able to attend the Mystery Dinner. If you have never attended one of these, make it a point to do so at the next N.O.W. show. The fun of it is that you have no idea where you are going until you get there. This dinner turned out to be more of a mystery than usual. The spontaneity of the dining experience made it all the more enjoyable.

The show in lola also welcomed the four new N.O.W. board members to the start of their term of office. Returning to the board are Fred Borgmann and Lee Hartz. New to the board are Bruce Benoit and Patti Finner. I look forward to working with them all. I am sure that these four and the existing board members and officers of N.O.W. will work toward enhancing the benefits of membership to all of us.

Keep in mind what N.O.W. has to offer. We host an annual state show. Publish an exceptional newsletter. List and coordinate shows throughout Wisconsin and the surrounding areas. List all known clubs and their meeting places and times. We are also preparing to list speakers available to clubs and organizing other resources that we can share with members and member clubs. All this for only \$5 a year!

As I have said in the past, and will continue to say in the future... tell your collector friends about Numismatists of Wisconsin. Invite them to join your club. Help make your club stronger. I know of one local club in Wisconsin that sponsored membership of all of its own members to N.O.W. If other clubs followed that lead, think of the growth that we would have and the opportunities that we could share. It doesn't say E PLURIBUS UNUM on our coinage for nothing.

I hope that you all have a good and numismatic summer. Enjoy the nice weather and good friends. Until next time, I shall remain yours in Numismatics.

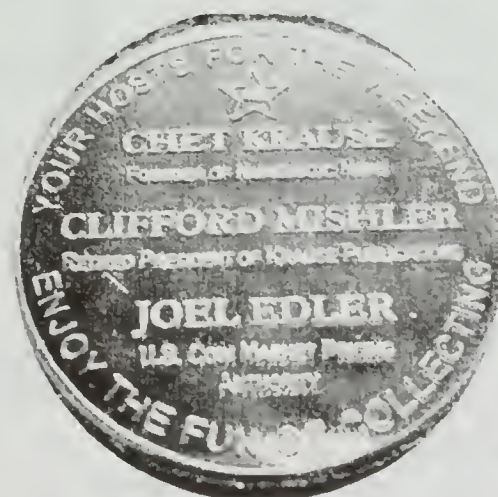
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45th Anniversary Souvenirs

by Cliff Mishler

A pair of numismatic issues were produced in commemoration of the NOW 45th anniversary event hosted in lola on May 20-21-- a commemorative medal and a souvenir slab.

The commemorative medal represents a resurrection of an annual tradition observed in the organization's early years, but only infrequently invoked over the past two decades. Similar commemoratives were prepared to commemorate the 2000 and 2002 events hosted in lola as well.



The obverse of this year's commemorative features the organization's official emblem, accompanied by pertinent commemorative wording. This presentation is similar to that rendered on the 2000 and 2002 issues as well. The reverse of this year's offering records the names of the hosts for the weekend; Chet Krause, Clifford Mishler and Joel Edler.

Bronze examples of this commemorative, which are not available for purchase, were given to the first 450 registrants. A limited edition of 45 pieces was struck in pure silver, examples of which may be purchased for \$35 each, plus \$2 for packing and shipping.

A limited quantity of pure silver examples of the 2000 and 2002 issues also remain available at this time. Sets of the 3 medals struck in silver (2000, 2002 and 2005) may be purchased at a special price of \$90, or individual examples of the 2000 issue (40 struck) are available for \$40 each, while individual examples of the 2002 issue (50 struck) may be purchased for \$30 each. Include \$2 per medal for packing and shipping.

A limited edition slab incorporating examples of the 2004-P Wisconsin quarter was also offered this year, created and donated by the Independent Coin Graders. These souvenirs were made available to registrants at the event in exchange for \$5 donation to NOW. A small quantity of the 170 units produced remain available, donations must be accompanied by \$1 each for packing and shipping.

Payment for any of the above souvenirs should be made out to the Numismatists of Wisconsin and directed to Eclectic Pursuits, P.O. Box 316, Iola, WI 54945.



Secretary's Musings

by Bill Brandimore



We had a great time at the Iola Old Car Activity Center last month as dealers from around the country were there to offer their wares at our state NOW show. Cliff Mishler is to be congratulated on a Show Chairman's job well done! It's always fun to go to Iola.

The Mystery Dinner took place at Chet Krause's office building in downtown Iola. This was the home of KP before they built their "new" headquarters uptown. We had a sandwich buffet that was graciously put together by Chet's niece, Kathy. Great conversation took place as we enjoyed Iola's hospitality.

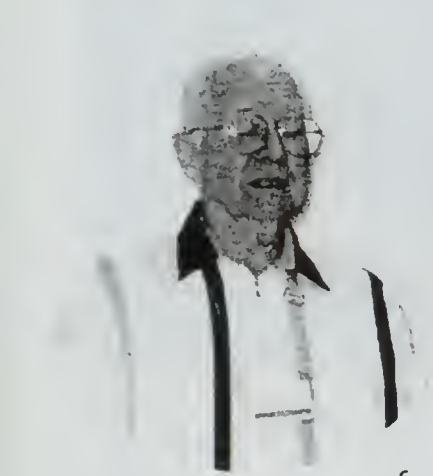
Ron and Phyllis Calkins ran away with this year's Writer's Awards in a one-two finish with their articles "Early Banking in Wisconsin" and "Cross Plains, a Bit of Token History". Leon Saryan was third for his article on "Designing the State Quarter".

We had a good board meeting Saturday afternoon, and excellent attendance at the General Membership meeting. Interspersed with meetings was a Boy/Girl Scout Merit Badge Clinic, Remembrances of the early days of NOW with Chet Krause and Gene Johnson presiding and a Grading Seminar by Mike Schiller. There were so many NOW members involved in the Scout's Merit Badge project that I hate to give credit, as I know I'll leave someone out... good job for the scouts!

We had some nice exhibits as well, and the bourse floor seemed to be a beehive all afternoon on Friday and throughout Saturday. I found several nice Walkers for my set and I think folks were generally pleased with the show.

It's not too early to volunteer to help out at the 2007 Milwaukee ANA show. Cliff Mishler

is heading things up and needs the volunteer support of NOW to assure a good impression on the national stage. Get involved, sign up to chair a committee or work on one. We'll be looking for you at the MNS show October 2nd at Serb Hall in Milwaukee. Happy Collecting.



NOW's First 50

by Gene Johnson

In his reminiscences in the 25-year history booklet, NOW founder, Chet Krause,

estimated that about 200 people were at the Numismatic News building on July 8th, 1960 at the time of the formation of our Numismatists of Wisconsin organization.

Of those present, the first 50 who signed up and paid a dollar, became "charter" or founding members at that memorable gathering, which I was fortunate to attend.

To get a handle on the makeup of the coin collector group assembled, a return to the year 1960 is in order.

In the mid-1950s a renaissance of coin collecting took place, partly fueled by Richard Yoe's "Red Book" that had made an appearance in 1946 when the war ended, but the real flare-up came in 1952 when Chet Krause's pioneer newspaper, the Numismatic News, was created.

Coin collecting was pretty much an "elite" pastime prior to the mid 1950s, the relatively small following of the hobby were shrouded in secrecy since many of the major collectors feared publicity.

There were, of course, some coin clubs in Wisconsin. The state's first coin club was

at Madison, co-founded by past NOW president, Gordon Gill in 1932. Others were the venerable Milwaukee Numismatic Society, and a powerful Racine Wisconsin club orbiting around the Whitman Publishing Company and its nationally-known numismatic editor, Richard Yeo(man).

The Krause Numismatic News fueled the creation of no less than 34 new Wisconsin coin clubs, some short lived and others that are still flourishing today. Suddenly coin collecting was the "IN" thing to do.

Many small clubs were held together by "hard core" numismatists who belonged to, and traveled to several clubs, and the "vest pocket" dealers who traveled from club to club.

Newspaper publicity of the new hobby phenomenon attracted the public, who often had a few coins left by grandpa, or that were brought home from Europe or Asia following World War II.

Time-wise, the founding of NOW was predicated by the "settling in" of Chet Krause's Numismatic News. Chet had become a huge force in both the state and national hobby. His wide-ranging travels to sell advertising made him well known to dealers and advertisers, and things were starting to go well.

Following the talk around the table at Detroit, Michigan, and solidification of a state organization at Rockford, IL, the big day of creation came about on July 8, 1960, at Iola.

It's not surprising that in the first 50 members of the charter were 10 people from the Milwaukee Numismatic Society, and another 8 from the Racine club. These were the biggest and most powerful clubs at that time, and as most any coin club member will attest, power struggles within clubs of this size were a norm (even in smaller clubs as well).

As a small town collector and very immature in public relations, I smirked at the hustlers



Several of NOW's First 50 members enjoyed reminiscing at the Friday night Mystery Dinner. Tom Fruit, Cliff Manthe, Gene Johnson, Cliff Mishler and Ron Calkins.

NOW Show Highlights May 20-21, 2005

(Photos by Gene Johnson)



Phyllis Calkins & Nancy Wilson manned the registration table of the well-attended show.



NOW Member #1 Chet Krause graciously hosted the 45th anniversary of NOW, with the help and organizational skills of Cliff Mishler and Joel Edler.



RuthAnn Phillips and Irene Johnson helped treasurer, Ron Calkins, at the NOW table.



Cliff Mishler welcomes hungry guests at the Friday night Mystery Dinner which was held at Chet's office building.



Darlene Anderson chats with NOW Board member, Mike Tramte.

who milled about wanting to be 'Number One' on the NOW membership charter list.

After the initial crush and bustle I, with a number of other small fry, fell into line to sign up for the new state organization.

Of the first 50 there are many who are still active today, including Chet Krause who was listed as #1.

* * *

Remembering

by Gene Johnson, NOW Historian

During Chet Krause's talk at the 45th NOW convention, he brushed lightly on a subject that has been in need of numismatic writing exploration for a long time.

What Chet proudly noted, was that, he in little Iola, Wisconsin, created the Numismatic News coin grading system that had a powerful impact on the burgeoning coin collecting hobby of the mid-1950s.

It was during this time frame our nation's largest circulated coin search took place, as new collectors filled the blue Whitman coin folder, fueling a grass roots collector surge that has never been matched in numismatic history.

The exchange of coins between Numismatic News subscribers and members of the many new Wisconsin coin clubs found a level playing field in Chet's "common sense" grading system in this time of hobby growth.

Since much of my dealing was in 1¢ and 5¢ coinages, it is in these several areas my recollection is sharp. To grade these coins, we used the number of letters readable on the headband of the Indian cents, the degree of wear on the wheat lines on the Lincoln cent, and the amount of horn showing on the Buffalo nickel.

At this time everyone included in mail correspondence, "Numismatic News Grading" in describing the material for exchange. It was

honest, fair coin grading, and so very needed in the mid-1950s.

Years later, of course, many versions of coin grading systems were brought forward, invariably less generous than Chet's system.

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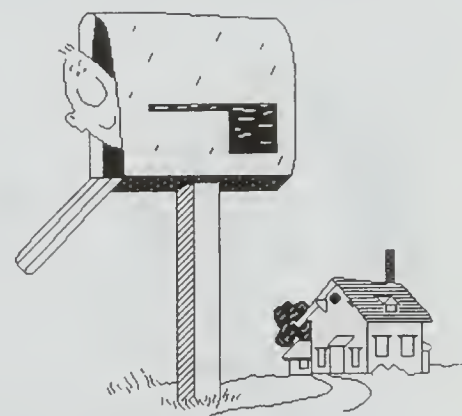
Greetings from Ocala Florida

We want to thank hosts Chester Krause, Clifford Mishler and Joel Edler for providing

ANA with a table at the recently completed Numismatists of Wisconsin's 45th anniversary event that was held May 20-21 in Iola, Wis. at the F & W Activity Center. We signed up 15 new members for the American Numismatic Association and handed out a complete box of Numismatists, along with other inexpensive numismatic items to the many who stopped by our table.

The convention itself was well run with an excellent bourse, exceptional exhibits, a Numismatic News booth full of free publications, superb educational programs, including a Scout Merit Badge Clinic, a wonderfully successful Treasure Trivia Hunt for young numismatists (mostly scouts), tours of Chet Krause's military jeep and car collection, a mystery dinner, free parking, and to top it off, the security was top notch. Frosting on the cake was the large F & W Publications booth with tables filled full of overstocked and impaired books covering subjects from A to Z, including many excellent titles of numismatic books for very attractive prices.

With around 900 attending (including dealers), we think the show was very successful and our hats are off to the hosts who ran



coin convention that will long be remembered. Chet, Cliff and Joel, thanks again for the great ANA table and all your work for the NOW state organization in setting up and running this important convention.

Yours in Numismatics
John & Nancy Wilson

* * *



ANA Highlights

ANA World's Fair of Money July 27-31, 2005

Collectors, famous experts and more than a thousand numismatic dealers will gather in San Francisco at the ANA's 114th Anniversary Convention. A special "Timelines" convention medal will be struck for the event. For information, contact MoneyMarket at 800-367-9723 or enterprise@money.org.

Internet Sites to Share and Discuss Numismatic information

In a recent issue of the "Numismatist" Michael Marotta listed several internet sites which benefits the numismatic hobby: The World-wide Web was created in 1991 to rapidly expand the power of computer networks.

- www.johnmaben.com provides articles on grading and other topics. John Maben's "Ten Tips to Sharpen Your Grading Skills" offers unusual advice worth considering.
- www.cointalk.org has 3 broad discussion areas for all general types of coins (U.S., world and ancients).
- Heritage Rare Coin Galleries is reputedly the world's largest numismatic auction house. Their "Permanent Auction Archives" holds

more than a million images, 600,000 catalog descriptions and prices realized. Access is free; register by clicking on www.heritagecoin.com and follow the links to "sign in" or "join".

- www.pcg.com has several interesting message boards created by Professional Coin Grading Service.

* * *



Coin Club News

South Shore Coin Club

Members are currently working on establishing a website for SSCC, to help publicize information about the club and to promote interest in numismatic activities. It was recently discovered that all of the club's historical material had been destroyed. This is very unfortunate and probably can never be reconstituted. An organization's history is important and should be preserved. If your club doesn't have a Historian to keep and organize your archives, consider appointing one.

Lakeland Coin & Stamp Club

During the NOW show last month, Paul Engwall informed us about a new coin club was formed last fall in Minoqua. Their enthusiastic members get together twice a month - the first and third Thursday and they are already planning their first show this summer.

Madison Coin Club

Member Ben Bell spoke at the May meeting on "Alternative Coin Dating". Although much of the world uses the AD system (or CE for Current Era) many cultures, both past and present, use other dating systems. No summer meetings until the August picnic.

M.N.S. 25th Annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic

by Bruce Benoit

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society's 25th annual Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge Clinic got an early start on Saturday, April 2nd. Volunteers arrived early to help set up the clinic room and the registration table. A few minutes later a long line of scouts were waiting to check in and have their coin requirements inspected for content and completeness.

It was great to see many of the scouts' coins protected and displayed in coin holders and/or set assembly sheets. The scouts then entered the clinic room with excitement of soon completing their coin collecting merit badge requirements. As the presenters prepared their programs and other volunteers prepared to grade tests, I welcomed the scouts, parents, guests and troop leaders and gave them a brief outline of the program and handed out some of donated numismatic materials we received.

The MNS gave each scout a 2005-D Jefferson/Bison nickel in a custom coin flip. Scouts were tested after each presenter completed his program, including lecture along with a digital PowerPoint program. One of the highlights was guest speaker, Cliff Mishler. He talked to the boys about how numismatics has enhanced his life. One lucky scout received an autographed book authored by Mr. Mishler for answering a trivia question.

The clinic ended with all of the scouts meeting the merit badge requirements and going home with many numismatic treasures. Thanks was given to all of the generous donors of the door prizes, the volunteers, and the program presenters. A lunch at Bigg's Road House restaurant was then provided to all of the volunteers that could attend.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with the clinic... and to all of the supporters of the program and a big thank you to the

South Shore Coin Club for letting us hold the clinic in conjunction with their 41st annual coin show and for providing the clinic room. I would also like to thank the dealers from the South Shore Coin Show who provided additional door prizes so each scout left the clinic with a door prize.

* * *

Racine Numismatic Society

Club members hosted a very successful show on February 27th. The crowd was steady throughout the day and dealers were happy. To promote their club, a "million dollar bill" was given to each person attending the show... a card was attached with information relating to their club. They gained several new members during the show.



Visitors at the Racine show received a million dollar bill.

* * *

Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club

The President of the Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club, Claude Giralte, passed away on April 30th at the age of 61 as a result of complications of heart surgery. Claude was president of the club for the last 11 years. He was born in France and moved to America at age 18 and served our nation in the Viet Nam War. He will be missed in the stamp and coin hobbies.

Robert Hendershott

Robert Hendershott, 106 of Des Moines, Iowa died March 23rd. He was an active member of ANA and continued to attend coin shows even in his later years. At age 97, he published a book featuring some 1500 items from the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, which he attended.



Mint Announces Higher Karat Gold Coin

The U.S. Mint is hoping to win a bigger share of international investment sales by producing the first 24-karat gold bullion coin in U.S. History. The Mint wants to begin selling the coin by early next year with the goal of making it the bestselling such coin in the world and it would sell at prices far above face value, keyed to the world price of gold.

The Mint currently produces 22-karat gold bullion coins in its American Eagle series, but international investors (especially Asia) prefer the purer coins.

The American Eagle coins have face values of \$50, \$25, \$10 and \$5, but they sell for much more than that. The \$50 American Eagle was selling for around \$447. The gold content in the American Eagle coins ranges from an ounce in the \$50 to 1/10th of an ounce in the \$5 coin.

The new coins are expected to sell for essentially the same price as American Eagle coins with similar levels of gold. The only difference will be that the new series will be pure gold without alloys mixed in.

Twenty-four karat coins produced by Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Singapore and Mexico account for about 60% of global gold coin sales. Mint officials estimate the potential global market for 24-karat gold coins at \$2.4 billion annually.

Mint Director, Henrietta Holsman Fore said "We are the No. 1 seller in the world for 22-karat gold, silver and platinum coins and we hope to become the No 1 seller in the world for 24-karat gold coins". A 24-karat gold coin contains 99.99% gold; the 22-karat gold coin contains 91.67% gold with the rest of the coin silver and copper.

{Ref: Wisconsin State Journal/Associated Press}

House Ponders Presidential Dollar Coins

[Wisconsin Rapids Tribune article]
submitted by Gene Johnson

Before long, American pockets could be jingling with dollar coins engraved with the faces of Ronald Reagan, Millard Fillmore and Bill Clinton, as Congress considers a plan to begin minting dollar coins to commemorate all the past presidents.

Hoping to cash in on the popularity of the state quarter program, which has generated \$5 billion in revenue and turned an estimated 140 million Americans into coin collectors, the House of Representatives began debate recently on legislation that could turn the golden dollar coin into a hot collectable.

The coins would be minted at a rate of 4 presidents a year starting with George Washington and working up to the modern day. Every former president living and dead, would be on a dollar coin if the bill becomes law. Sitting presidents would be excluded under the bill. Supporters hope the new twist will drive up demand for dollar coins that are now gathering dust in sock drawers and coin collections.

"That coin needs some sort of boost to do better" said Rep. Michael Castle, R:Del. who sponsored both the state quarter and the presidential dollar legislation. "The question is, will there be enough demand (for the presidential series) for a young person to walk into McDonalds and tell the cashier "I want a \$1 coin in change?"

Because coins are more durable than bills, the government could save as much as \$500 million a year on printing costs if the public embraced the dollar coin, according to a 2002 report by the General Accounting Office.

The golden dollar debuted in 1998, featuring Sacagawea, the young Shoshone interpreter who guided the Lewis and Clark expedition.

But the golden dollar has yet to come into widespread use despite the \$67 million the Mint spent to promote the coin between 1998 and 2001. The government minted just 6.7 million Sacagawea dollars last year, most of them destined for private coin collections.

Castle's bill also includes plans for a commemorative penny series in 2009, featuring images from the life of Abraham Lincoln and a series of collectable coins stamped with the images of the first ladies. In addition to the state quarters, the mint also is rolling out a series of commemorative nickel designs, celebrating the Lewis and Clark expedition.

"We've really seen a coin renaissance in the past few years," said Henrietta Holsman Fore, director of the U.S. Mint. "Coins tell the story of our nation. They help us reconnect with our history."

* * *

World War II 60th Anniversary Commemorated with United Kingdom and Allied Forces Commemoratives

The British Royal Mint announced that gold and silver Proof editions of the £2 commemorative marking the 60th anniversary of World War II are now available to collectors. In addition, three exciting collections of Allied Forces commemoratives are offered in a 6-coin Silver Proof Set, a 4-coin Gold Proof Set and a 6-coin Gold Deluxe Proof Set.

The United Kingdom £2 coin bears a dramatic design by Robert Elderton depicting the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, framed by the beams of searchlights, with two dominant beams rising from the center of the base to form a "V" for Victory. The outer ring, integral to the bimetallic design of the £2



coins, bears the value TWO POUNDS top center, and the dates 1945-2005 at the base. The edge inscription carries the famous words of Britain's wartime leader Winston Churchill: IN VICTORY MAGNANIMITY IN PEACE GOODWILL. Three versions of the coin are available to collectors

The obverse design, common to all United Kingdom coinage, is Rank-Broadley's portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Discussing the wide selection of World War II commemoratives being offered, the Royal Mint's Director of Collector Coin, Alan Wallace, stated "The Second World War was probably the most important event of the 20th century for the people of Britain and the United States. It is important that none of us forget the incredible contribution made by so many, so that we might have the freedom we enjoy today. We are particularly thrilled to be able to bring this very special collection to collectors."

For orders and inquiries, contact the British Royal Mint at 800-563-5943 or check their website www.royalmint.com.

* * *

Bureau of Engraving Gets Congress' Go Ahead

[reprinted from ANA's Numismatist]

The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing received Congress' go-ahead to print paper currency for other countries. Eager to hone its anti-counterfeiting skills by developing new devices on world currency, the Bureau has been trying to obtain this authority for at least 4 years. Bureau Director, Thomas Ferguson sees a potential market for services to smaller, developing countries that don't have the resources to produce their own currency. But he is quick to add "Our main function always will be primarily and foremost U.S. currency".

* * *

Dollar Hits High for the Year Against Euro

[Wisconsin State Journal]

The euro rebounded against the dollar last month after hitting a new 2005 low in earlier trading. The euro dropped as low as \$1.2582 in light of European trading before rising to \$1.2636 in late New York trading.

* * *

Ohio's Foray into Coins Probed \$400,000 of State's Investment Missing

[Milwaukee Sentinel/Journal]
submitted by Gene Johnson
and Numismatic News

In the late 1990s, Ohio came up with a novel way to invest money from its workers' compensation fund. It bought \$50 million worth of rare coins. The state made a mint, but the investment has also yielded a scandal.

At least 121 coins, worth an estimated \$400,000 are missing. The man in charge of the investment has come under heavy scrutiny, with the Democrats alleging that he got the state's business in return for campaign donations to the Republicans. And Ohio's government watchdog is investigating. The GOP adamantly denies there was any favoritism, but Democrats hope the issue will help them topple the Republican machine that has dominated Ohio government since 1994.

The idea of buying rare nickels, dimes and quarters dates to the 1990s, when the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation was looking to hedge its investments in stocks and bonds. The \$16 billion fund pays medical bills for Ohio workers injured on the job.

The man entrusted to direct the rare-coin investments was Tom Noe, a respected coin expert who also heads a committee that

helps states select designs for commemorative quarters. Noe and his team of collectors began scouring coin shops around the country for currency they could buy on the cheap and turn around and sell for a profit. The investments proved quite lucrative, at times even outperforming the stock market. They made \$19.1 million, a nearly 40% gain. Noe received \$3.8 million in commissions.

Coin dealers say they know of no other state that has invested in rare coins.

Questions about the investment surfaced in April when the Blade newspaper of Toledo found that the two 1800s-era gold coins had disappeared. Noe said they were sent to a Colorado coin dealer but got lost in the mail in 2003.

The newspaper then reported that 119 other coins were missing. Noe said he thought the coins had been stolen by the Colorado dealer, whom he hired to assist with the fund. Colorado authorities are investigating.

The state has responded by announcing plans to sell off its coin collection. Noe also was criticized for hiring a California coin dealer who had been convicted of faking a coin transaction a decade earlier.

No charges have been filed, but Noe has resigned from the Professional Numismatic Guild and as chairman of the U.S. Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, also the Ohio Turnpike Commission and the board overseeing state universities.

Republicans are distancing themselves from Noe, a prodigious fundraiser for the party. He helped raise more than \$100,000 for President Bush's reelection and has given money to Gov. Bob Taft and former Gov. George Voinovich, now a U.S. Senator.

Jeremy Jackson, spokesman for the Bureau of Worker's Compensation disputed any suggestion that Noe was hired in return for his campaign contributions.

* * *

Money Engravers

Bureau of Engraving

When most people picture an artist, they envision an old man seated before a canvas and armed with a paint brush. Yet, if you meet the artists who work at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, you would find that stereotype quickly dispelled. The Bureau's artists do not sit in front of easels, but rather sit hunched over small pieces of metal, armed with an engraving tool in one hand and a magnifying glass in the other.

What, you might say, are artists doing at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in the first place? After all, this is where U.S. money is made. Also manufactured here are the majority of the postage stamps circulated in this country. So, what we have here, is a printing plant, right?

Wrong! Take a closer look at the name. It's the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. And hidden away in the Bureau's Office of Engraving are 13 of this country's most talented artists. They are engravers.

Engraving is not a well-known art form. The engraver's medium is metal: his canvas is made of a soft metal and his "paintbrush" is a hard metal engraving tool. Some engravers specialize in pictures and portraiture; others in lettering. But the commonality lies in the technique. Usually working from a drawing, a painting or a photograph, engravers cut in dots, dashes, and curved lines of varying depths and widths into the master die.

A Siderographer, using a transfer press, transfers the completed, hardened engraving into a soft transfer roll. When hardened, this roll will be used to duplicate the original engraving again and again. It is in this way, master plates are created and from them, the also necessary to manufacture working intaglio press plates.

The Bureau uses ink in such tremendous quantities that it comes to the Bureau in 55

gallon drums. The ink is pumped into the presses ink fountain which distributes the ink on the printing plates. The excess is scrapped from the plate by a doctor blade. A polishing wipe buffs the plate clean leaving ink trapped in the engraving. Under tremendous pressure, the inked plate and paper are squeezed together producing a shiny smooth appearance to the paper called "calendaring". In this way, the engraving is transferred to the special currency paper. All U.S. currency is produced using the intaglio method.

Take a close look at the image of George Washington on the one dollar note. Notice the detail of the image. Observe how the image is really made up of microscopic dots, dashes and lines. This is an engraved image. Other engraved images on the note: the portrait on the face, the ornamentation around the borders, the numbers, and the signatures of the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Treasury.

While most of the portraits on U.S. currency were created by artists of long ago, the new \$100 note released in 1996, features the work of the Bureau's current lead picture engraver.

Tom Hipschen has been with the Bureau for 27 years. He started young, plucked out of the cornfields of Iowa to apprentice at the Bureau at the tender age of 17.



Tom Hipschen, lead picture engraver

During his 9-year apprenticeship (most portrait engravers apprentice for 10 years), Hipschen learned how to transfer his artistic skills to metal. The hardest part of the process, according to Hipschen, was learning to create lifelike, three-dimensional images on a piece of steel.

Hipschen has engraved many images -- he's done the presidential portraits of the last four U.S. presidents and he's engraved countless stamps, including the Madonna and Child Christmas stamps of the 1980s and the 1988 series of stamps featuring carousel animals.

In fact, until the redesign of U.S. currency was announced two years ago, most of Hipschen's work was on stamps. But when word of the redesign started circulating in the early 1990s, Hipschen began working on a portrait of Benjamin Franklin. When the final design process began, his engraving of Franklin was chosen to grace the face of the note. Hipschen's work also appears on the reverse side of the note. He refined the illustration of Independence Hall, adding new elements to the engraving used previously.

According to Hipschen, the art of engraving requires a rare combination of talents. "It takes a special kind of a person to be an engraver. If you're too much of an artsy person, you won't have the discipline to sit hour after hour scratching out one little line at a time. (It can take an engraver more than 500 hours to complete a large portrait). If you're too mechanical about it, you can reproduce the picture, but you won't get a lifelike appearance. I don't think just anyone can learn the craft. It's only a handful of people that are really suited for this task. Most people would go mad sitting here hovering three inches over a piece of steel and chipping away one piece at a time."

Letter engraver Dixie March is another talented artist who cuts away at steel, but her specialty is the alphabet. March, one of the few females in the trade, has been a letter engraver for the Bureau for 7 years.

Letter engravers study shapes and learn how to replicate those shapes making consecutive cuts into metal plates. They must learn different alphabets and methods of spacing. But letter engravers do more than just letters. For example, March worked on the corner of the border of the new 50-dollar note.

Prior to the currency redesign process, March spent the bulk of her seven years at the Bureau working on the pantograph machine, inspecting and repairing plates. She has done engraving on several stamps, including the Norman Rockwell 29¢, the Dove and Heart 29¢, the Cog Railway 20¢, and last year, the traditional Christmas Madonna and Child Stamp 32¢.

March says letter engravers must have a special set of qualities, including patience, tolerance for frustration, good eyesight, excellent small motor skills, hand-eye coordination, the ability to draw and last but not least, a good set of nerves. The engravers at the Bureau spend their own time talking to collectors of currency, souvenir cards and stamps about the art of engraving.

At this point, you may be thinking that this is terribly complicated. Why can't this process be computerized? Why should a person have to sit hunched over a piece of metal for hours?

Both March and Hipschen agree that computers simply aren't on the cutting edge when it comes to engraving. "Engraving requires an eye and experience," says March. "There's too much of a human element involved." Hipschen says, "In the past two years, I've been reviewing computer systems they want to bring in to simplify designs. Computers can do wonderful things, but they can't think. You need someone to drive it. Computers can do beautiful geometric patterns, but you can't draw a good picture with it. You can manipulate images you already have by scanning, but you just get systems of lines, not a beautiful drawing."

Furthermore, there's the whole issue of counterfeiting. An engraved image is far more difficult to replicate than a computer designed image. Hipschen says that the combination of coarse and fine engraved lines make reproduction next to impossible. "Printing will always lose a part of an engraved image. Engraved printing has an integrity you can't replicate with photocopying."

So, until the next Bill Gates designs a software program that can capture the human touch, the Bureau's engravers will continue to toil behind the scenes.

But no matter how anonymous they may seem, their artistry is well-known around the globe. After all, U.S. currency is the most widely circulated currency in the world, which means that the work of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's talented artists is seen by more people than the work of those other artists who wear berets and wield paintbrushes.

* * *



Ooops

Four Massachusetts men made headlines by claiming they dug up buried treasure worth as much as \$125,000 from one of their yards. The men appeared on national TV and told newspaper reporters how they found 1,800 large-size and small-size banknotes.

Police became suspicious when their story kept changing. The four men were arrested on charges of receiving stolen property, conspiracy and accessory after the fact.

If they had kept quiet and sold the notes on e-Bay, probably nobody would have noticed.

[ref. Wisconsin State Journal]

Lottery Scams

The Colorado attorney general's office has issued a succinct warning on international lottery swindles:

"Foreign lotteries cannot be legally sold in the United States. If someone writes or calls you claiming that you've won a foreign lottery, **THEY ARE LYING.** Colorado and Wisconsin law prohibits sweepstakes offers from requiring that you pay any money as a condition of collecting your prize.

NEVER provide any personal or financial information to a company or any individual whom you do not know."

Internet Scams

The latest scam that could affect you and your computer is the hackers can lock your documents, photos, spreadsheets and databases and leave a message asking for \$200. If you pay their fee, they will give you a special code which unlocks your documents. Police feel the low \$200 fee will greatly increase after the crooks get all of the bugs out of their program and then businesses will become a much bigger target.

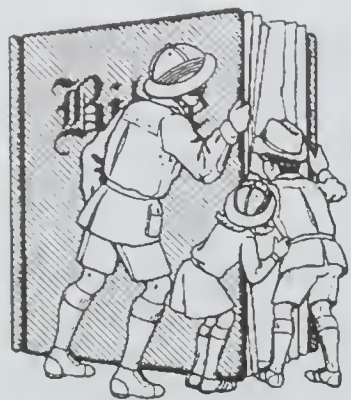
* * *

Money Facts

The largest note ever printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was the \$100,000 Gold Certificate, Series 1934. These notes were printed from December 18, 1934 through January 9, 1935 and were issued by the Treasurer of the United States to Federal Reserve Banks only against an equal amount of gold bullion held by the Treasury. These notes were used for transactions between Federal Reserve Banks and were not circulated among the general public.

[reprinted from Bureau of Engraving & Printing information]

* * *



Book Nook

Basic Guides for U.S. Coins

by Robert D. Leonard Jr.
(reprinted from Coin Values)

Every collector should know the history of U.S. coinage, not just dates and prices. There are several excellent sources: Richard Doty, *America's Money, America's Story* (1998 out of print, but available from dealers), Walter Breen's *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* (an indispensable source of detailed information, series by series, though unfortunately with a number of errors); and Neil Carothers, *Fractional Money* published in 1930... originals are scarce, but hardcover and paperback reprints are available.

These books can be borrowed by mail from the American Numismatic Association for just the cost of postage by ANA members. The ANA library catalog is (www.money.org).

A Simple Souvenir: Coins and Medals of the Olympic Games

This is a richly illustrated catalog of the 2003-04 American Numismatic Society exhibit "Full Circle: The Olympic Heritage in Coins and Medals". Written by Peter G. Van Alfen, the book explores the role numismatic material has played in social and political contexts with more than 120 color and black and white images of ancient and modern coins, medals, vases and related ephemera.

The 170-page hardcover book contains a detailed introductory essay (including an overview of the Games) and a thorough bibliography. The catalog (priced at \$50) is available for perusal through the ANA Library.

"2006 Standard Catalog of World Coins"

by Colin R. Bruce II and Thomas Michael

This hefty 5.5 pound reference offers world coin collectors a glimpse through history. More than a million coin prices and 50,000 full-size illustrations grace the pages of the "2006 Standard Catalog of World Coins". Dedicated to giving collectors the most comprehensive information on the market, this 33rd edition covers nearly every coin from 1901 to present.

Each country listing includes a map, brief history, mint marks and coins listed in small to large denomination according to Krause-Mishler number. Prices are given in up to 5 grades of preservation, while accurate mintage figures, metallic composition, precious metal weights, dates, and design details round out each country's catalog listing. More than 40 pages of useful reference material offers identifier charts, grading terminology, international numeral systems, mint index, foreign exchange rates and a country index.

This is part of a 4-volume set that identifies and prices coins made from 1601 to present. Chester Krause and Clifford Mishler began the huge undertaking in 1972 by offering a single volume and now the 4 volumes encompass more than 6,300 pages. Colin R. Bruce II and Thomas Michael head this latest edition. A full-time staff of 8 and dozens of contributors help keep the database for these 4 volumes updated on a continual basis. This catalog of world coins has earned the recognition as a bible to world coin collectors, having sold more than 500,000 copies since inception.

"2006 Standard Catalog of World Coins" is available from KP Books, Book Dept. PR05, 800-258-0929, www.krausebooks.com or from major bookstores. KP Books is an imprint of F+W Publications, Cincinnati, OH, a special interest publisher serving enthusiasts in such categories as writing, fine art, genealogy, crafts, antiques, collectibles and the outdoors.

Recall of Minnesota Quarters

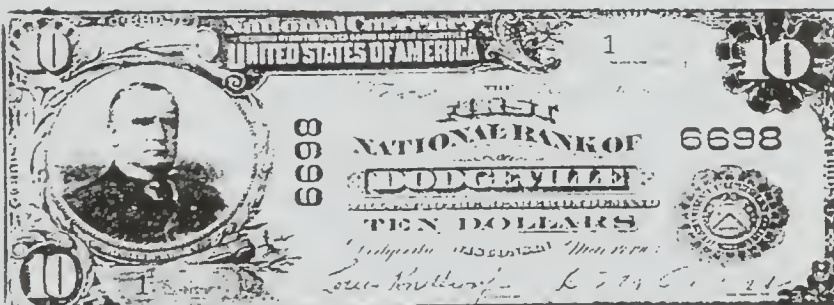
(Haven't You heard?)

[submitted by Tom Casper]

The United States Treasury announced they are recalling the new Minnesota quarters. In a recent press conference, Treasury Undersecretary, Russell Shackelford said "We are recalling all of the new Minnesota quarters that were recently issued. This comes in the wake of numerous reports to this agency that the quarters will not work in parking meters, toll booths, vending machines, pay phones or other coin-operated devices. We believe the problem lies in a design flaw" said Shackelford.

The winning design for the Minnesota quarter was submitted by Sven Petersen and Ole Johnson of Hibbing, Minnesota. Sven commented "Apparently the duct tape holding the two dimes and nickel together keeps jamming the coin-operated devices."

* * *



BUYING WISCONSIN NATIONALS

(Trades also considered)

Also buying tokens from SW Wis.

Please Contact me ANYTIME

Bob McNeill N.O.W. #101L
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Dodgeville, WI 53533 608-553-5021(cell)

ragpicker@verizon.net

Minnesota Quarter



The second quarter to be released in 2005 commemorates Minnesota, the "Land of 10,000 Lakes".

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state admitted into the Union, and it's the 32nd coin to be issued in the US Mint's 50 State Quarters Program. The design features a tree-lined lake with two people fishing, a loon on the water, and a textured outline of the state surrounding its nickname, "Land of 10,000 Lakes."

The "Land of 10,000 Lakes" actually contains more than 15,000 such bodies of water whose total shoreline exceeds 90,000 miles -- more than California, Hawaii and Florida combined. Equally renowned as the home of the headwaters of the Mississippi River, the name Minnesota is derived from the Dakota Sioux word for "cloudy" water.

The state's natural beauty is vividly depicted on the reverse of this new quarter.. Lined with Norway pine, many of the lakes throughout the state offer much in the way of outdoor recreation, as well as providing a home for the graceful loon, Minnesota's state bird. Minnesota also is home to the Boundary Waters canoe wilderness area. This 1-million acre area was established by Congress in 1978, and contains more than 1,500 miles of canoe routes and nearly 2,200 designated campsites.

Minnesota Governor, Tim Pawlenty, announced the winning design at the 2004 Governor's Fishing Opener. The "Land of 10,000 Lakes" design was recommended by the Minnesota State Quarter Commission. Other designs considered were state with Symbols", including the state outline, snowflake, loon and plow, and "Mississippi River Headquarters" and "Fisherman/Lake Recreation."



How About A 'County' in your pocket??

submitted by
Leon Saryan #100L

Following the
success of its 50

State Quarters program, deemed one of the most popular commemorative coin programs in American history, the U.S. Mint announced its next ambitious project: releasing a unique penny for every county in the nation.

"Located in the first state in the union, Delaware's Kent County will be the first county honored in this grand celebration of America" U.S. Mint Director, Henrietta Holsman Fore, said recently. "But over the coming years, citizens all across the nation will see the best aspects of their own counties celebrated on the obverse side of a penny. Collecting all 3,143 county pennies will be a fun activity your family will enjoy for generations."

Starting in 2006, the U.S. Mint will release 5 new pennies each year for the next 629 years. While the process will be a long one, residents of the nation's 3,143 counties and county equivalents have already begun debating how their regions should be depicted.

"I hope they get the old stone water tower just right," Ypsilanti, MI resident Gina Dalton said. "It's the most well-known landmark in Washtenaw County, so it's definitely what they should use."

While Fore agreed that Ypsilanti's historic water tower, completed in 1890, boasting an 85-foot tall base made of Joliet limestone, and standing at the important intersection of Route 17 and West Cross Street, is a good suggestion, she cautioned Washtenaw County residents that their penny is scheduled for release in 2315.

"We're encouraging counties, especially those beyond the first 50 or so, to think creatively to find a truly unique representative icon for their penny," Fore said. "Water towers, along with mountains, covered bridges, and lighthouses will be among the first images to get snapped up. We'll need to see some shoe factories and cell phone towers too."

Residents of Loving County, TX (population 67) are taking no chances. They have already tendered their penny's design, which features the Johnson family's round barn, the only structure of note in the vicinity. Residents said they plan to hold annual bake sales to maintain the building until the penny is released in 2371.

Richland Center, WI resident, Tom McCrary, said he's anticipating his penny's 2433 release. "Richland County is best known for its apple harvest, dairy farms, and the rock bridge," McCrary said. "But after the lesson of the New Hampshire quarter, I'm not too comfortable putting a natural rock formation on our penny (the rock face depicted collapsed). Luckily, we have another 438 years to decide on a symbol that accurately conveys the spirit of Richland County."

Some U.S. citizens, particularly those in coastal regions, have raised concerns that their counties may never get a chance to be represented, due to rising water levels and tectonic shifts.

Citizens of Alaska and Louisiana have expressed worries that they may not be represented at all. "I have spoken to numerous concerned Alaska and Louisiana citizens, and I tell them all the same thing -- settle down" Fore said. "Although they are technically called the county pennies, the coins will certainly include Alaska's census areas, Louisiana's parishes, and independent cities like St. Louis and the District of Columbia."

"County equivalents are part of our rich national tapestry" Fore added. She also addressed worries that the penny may be out of use before the last counties are repre-

sented. "You have to keep your eye on the big picture. This is about Americans connecting with America through numismatics. Don't count the penny out so fast. This may be just the thing to get people excited about the penny all over again".

The U.S. Mint has designed a folder for collecting and displaying the county pennies. The cardboard murals, measuring 8 feet by 35 feet, will be available at most Walgreens stores, or directly from the Mint by mail for \$4.95 plus \$179 for postage and handling.

* * *

Lost to History

The Civil War Tokens of
Baraboo, Wisconsin

by Jon Stock #1438

Baraboo, Wisconsin, my home town... steeped in natural beauty and nestled between quartzite bluffs alive with spectacular flora and fauna. Baraboo, a stone's throw from the tourist mecca of Wisconsin Dells and Devils Lake. A town steeped in history as well as a good bit of mystery. Even the origin of the unique name -- Baraboo -- is lost to history. Some argue the name was given to the town by early French fur trappers who worked along the "Beaurabeau" river in the early 1700s. No one is certain. The answer is lost to history.

History abounds in Baraboo. Home to the Ringling Brothers and the circus they founded and home to a good bit of Civil War history as well. One aspect of the Civil War that intertwines with numismatics is the existence of Civil War Tokens (CWT). During the War Between the States of 1861 to 1865 "hard money" or coins were hoarded by a frightened citizenry and therefore merchants were hard pressed to conduct business. No coins in circulation meant no way to conduct trade. In 1863 merchants in several northern states, including Wisconsin, solved the coinage shortage by introducing privately minted "pennies" now known as Civil War Tokens.

Millions of these tokens entered circulation in 1863 and were used into 1864 when the Federal government banned their use in commerce.

Civil War tokens are classified into two groups -- the patriotics and the store cards. These tokens were the size of the genuine U.S. government small cent (the penny we use today) and were usually struck in copper, bronze or brass... although other metals were used. Patriotics often used a copy of the familiar "Indian head" on the reverse and a patriotic slogan such as "Union for Ever" as the obverse.

Many variations were used however, including the likenesses of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington on the reverse. Patriotics were used in place of one cent pieces and were purchased by merchants for about 80¢ per hundred. The 20¢ difference was therefore profit to the merchant. A peculiarity not lost on the merchant, the public nor the federal government which banned them in 1864 through an Act of Congress. Seigniorage, it seems, is a blessing reserved for the Federal Government then as it is today.



Store cards are similar to patriotics but more interesting. As with the patriotics, store cards often used the "Indian head" reverse but usually placed the merchant's name on the obverse. Since each merchant was unique, the store cards are unique to that particular business or store. Merchants usually paid 100 cents per 100 store cards thereby losing the profit of patriotics but gaining advertising for their store.

Collecting these interesting tokens began during the Civil War and continues today. The Civil War Token Society publishes a quarterly

journal well worth the \$10 per year membership fee. CWTS can be reached by writing Dale Cade, 26548 Mazur Dr., Rancho Palos Verde, CA 90275.

My interest in Civil War Tokens begins and ends with the "Peck and Orvis" store cards of Baraboo. I collect historical items related to Baraboo, including paper scrip, glass memorabilia and CWT store cards. Baraboo has but one store card associated with its Civil War history... that of the dry goods store known in 1863 as "Peck and Orvis".

The bible of Civil War Store Cards is the book "U.S. Civil War Store Cards" by George and Melvin Fuld. Listed in this book on page 519 is the store card of Baraboo and given the number 45A. The obverse of all the varieties of this store card contain the words "Peck & Orvis Drug-gists & Grocers Baraboo Wis". Several reverses are known for this store card but only one variety is common "Union Forever" or reverse number 1246 in the Fuld book. This token is listed as 45A-5a and is struck in copper with a plain edge. About 100 or 200 of this particular token are known to exist. There are 12 other varieties of the "Peck & Orvis" store card. Some varieties are unique -- one known example and of the other varieties, only 10 or fewer examples exist! I have one of the common "Peck & Orvis" tokens and one of the rarer examples in my collection.



Now owning a rare Civil War store card is one thing... knowing about the store it represents is another and there the mystery begins! My journey of research into "Peck & Orvis" began with phone calls to local historian Dr. Robert Dewel. Bob is a retired dentist and long-time Baraboo resident with a flare for historical research and writing. Dr. Bob referred me to another local historian who might be able to

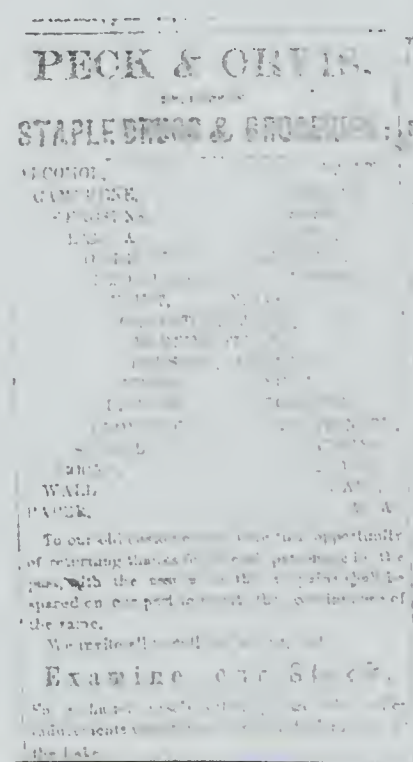
help -- Joe Ward. Joe is researching each individual property in downtown Baraboo from the first building at a particular location through the business that occupies that space today. A monumental task made a bit easier given that the streets of downtown Baraboo (the "square") have survived with few changes since the 1850s.

Mr. Ward had considerable information about the site that the dry goods store "Peck & Orvis" occupied, but only a paragraph or two about this particular store. The Sauk County Historical Society and the Baraboo Public Library were my next stops and each provided some information about "Peck & Orvis".

Unfortunately no photos of the business have survived and I could only find some bare details of the life of each of the two proprietors.

The parcel of property that later became the home of "Peck & Orvis" was designated 103 Third Avenue in November of 1847. In 1856 Henry A. Peck built a two-story wood framed structure with basement on the site. This store was known as the "H.A. Peck Merchandise House & Drug Store". (1) Rufus A. Orvis came to Baraboo in 1857 to work in the hardware store business of his uncle, Ransom Jones. (2) At some point after 1858, Mr. Peck took Mr. Orvis as a partner and the two conducted business at 103 Third Ave. as "Peck & Orvis". Advertisements for the business note "Peck & Orvis" were dealers in staples, drugs and groceries and invited the public to call on the store and "examine our stock." (see ad).

On March 1, 1864 with the Civil War



still raging and while the tokens they produced were still new, Mr. Peck transferred his ownership of the business to T.D. Lang. The business then continued as "Orvis & Lang". Perhaps Mr. Peck sold his interest due to poor health because he died of "consumption" (tuberculosis) in Madison, Wisconsin on June 27, 1867, aged 36 years and 12 days. (3) His obituary in the July 3, 1867 Baraboo Republic notes that Mr. Peck was "very highly esteemed for his many excellences of character" and that he left a wife and children. Interestingly, Mr. Peck's funeral was held at the home of the man who replaced him in business, T.D. Lang (3).

Mr. Lang and Mr. Orvis conducted business as "Orvis & Lang" until Mr. Orvis sold his interest in the business to Arthur K. Camp in March 1870 (1). While the business continued on as "Lang & Camp", Mr Orvis left Baraboo for South Bend, Indiana for a business opportunity. Mrs. Caroline Orvis (nee Casley) and her children stayed in Baraboo in the Orvis house until Mr. Orvis could get his new business in Indiana up and running.

Tragedy struck, however, in December of 1870 when Mr. Orvis drown in South Bend , Indiana at the age of 43 years. (4) Mr. Orvis' obituary of December 14, 1870 in the Baraboo Republic notes that he was "gifted with such qualities as gained him the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in

contact". Mr. Orvis' widow, Caroline A. Casley, later married Henry D. Evans in 1876 and lived in Baraboo until her death in 1903.(4).



*Peck & Orvis
Grocers/ Baraboo/Wis.*

As for the store Messr's Peck & Orvis left behind, the structure burned to the ground in a huge fire that consumed almost an entire block of Third Ave. on the evening of December 3, 1871. A new 2-story brick structure was built to replace the wood frame building in 1872. The new brick building housed the "Lang, Camp & Co. Merchandise House" until 1879 when a pharmacy occupied the building. "Donovan's Pharmacy" operated at 103 Third Ave. until 1923 when the brick structure was demolished and the present day "Baraboo National Bank" expanded into the parcel. (1)

So that's the story of the "Peck & Orvis" store cards which we may own and hold in our hand today. Like the origin of the name "Baraboo", the interesting questions of who struck the tokens and what Messr's Peck and Orvis may have thought about the tokens is lost to history.

1. *Notes from Joe Ward on downtown Baraboo, unpublished;*
2. *Baraboo Republic, May 20, 1959;*
3. *Baraboo Republic, July 3, 1867;*
4. *Braboo Republic, December 14, 1870*



From the grim shadows of the American Civil War, Memorial Day emerged. Before the close of the war, women began decorating the graves of soldiers who had died in that war. The practice quickly spread, and a few years later, May 30, 1868, was designated as Decoration Day -- a day for placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the United States.

In 1882, Decoration Day became known as "Memorial Day" and soldiers who died in other wars were also honored. Over the years, it has become a day when all loved ones who have died (in war or otherwise) are remembered. In 1971, the United States Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed annually on the last Monday in May.

The End Result

by Gene Johnson #105L

With space exploration, nuclear power in plants and weapons, and incredible advances in electronic communications, the century that ended in the year 2000 appears to be unmatched in history for the sheer volume of change.

Less notable, but significant human behavioral changes were also abundant, including the huge increase in marriage failures, medical miracles, greatly increased life-spans, and decimalization of traditional moral laws through a court system that has seemingly lost its way.

In another tiny area of social behavior, the ultimate demise of life ceremony, as remembered by the cremation token shown, has also evolved.

Speculating on its use, the crematory token is obviously functional, not advertising, or promotional. An internet search did not find this crematorium listed as being in business, and an interview with the local mortician threw no light on the token's possible use. The large number incused on the reverse (030505) seems to preclude a simple body count.

Burial in our nation began with necessity, followed by increasing reverence, then arose to opulence, and today, seems to have settled into a more median level of funeral procedures.

Although in my lifetime there never was the shallow pit and rock cairn, but of the reverence period did brush on my youth.

My grandmother, who died in 1936, was sent to an unmarked grave, which was not

unusual in the depression years prior to World War Two and my older brother was also buried in an unmarked grave in 1923 due to our family's poverty.

While the period of the carpenter's box and family washing of the body were before my time, funerals in the home living room were still common. "Showing the body" in the home was most often rural in nature.

Gradually the funeral "industry" pulled the burial out of the home and into funeral parlors which were far more convenient and spacious than the family home. Social mores also played a part in this change, where embalming and burial vaults became the norm and in some instances mandated by local or state law.

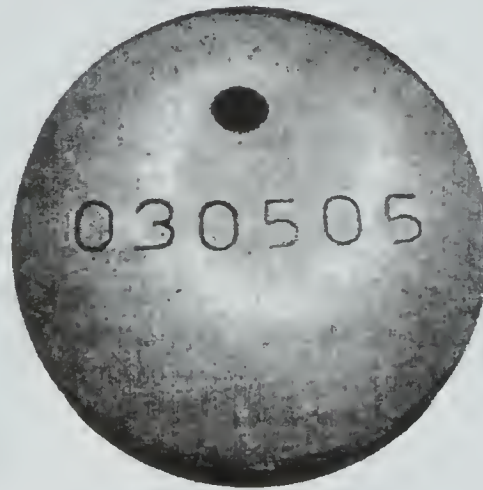
In the words of the National Funeral Directors Association, the mortician has a "very personal relationship with families we deal with." This close relationship is seemingly evolving.

The undertaker (once also the blacksmith or furniture dealer) became an important entity, and most often affluent.

As a child, my wife had a close friend whose father was a mortician, and when the little girls went to the candy store, my wife (whose father was a factory worker) had a penny to spend; her friend had a nickel.

Even with modest income, the farm and factory public had a tendency to give departed loved ones a "great send off." More often than not, this was a financial burden for the family since insurance was difficult to maintain in the hard financial times during and around the depression.

Later, in the 1950's era of thumb, the more affluent the deceased, the more lavish the funeral. The professional mourners of Louisiana had been replaced by soulful recorded music and public and social recognition more



*Crematory
Token*

often shown by floral tributes and expensive cemetery monuments.

Evergreen
Crematory token
Los Angeles, CA



This old cremation token is unusual since back in the year 1950, only about 3% of the deceased were cremated... now the figure is about one third of all burials and rising. Currently the state of Nevada leads the nation with 63% of all burials by cremation, followed by Hawaii, Oregon and Alaska. Wisconsin is at 28% of all burials and Alabama and Tennessee have the lowest percentage nationally at 5%.

While funeral directors attribute much of the increase in the number of cremations to cost, (some cremation funerals are half the cost of traditional), more people today seem to be rejecting the heart wrenching “viewing” and upbeat “celebrations of life” have become frequent.

As for mortician and numismatic burial tokens and medals, they are relatively scarce, perhaps because the striking of the pieces might be considered “morbid,” however, a number of casket and other burial themes have been on tokens over the years.

To cite examples, exnumia collectors could include the several burial and death tokens of presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, and there is a Civil War token listed for an undertaker in the Fuld Civil War store-card book. (New York 630-Z).

A search of the major token catalogs and listings finds no other examples of any cremation tokens, and this California “cremation” token is the first I have run across in 45 years of token collecting.

Checks of Armeanian Immigrants

by Leon Saryan LM #100

Checks are a very popular and widely disseminated type of financial instrument. They offer convenience, portability, widespread acceptance, and a record on paper of the details of the transaction, including names, signatures, places, and dates. These details can be of interest to numismatic researchers and collectors.¹ Cancelled checks for example, can be important sources of historical and economic information that is unrecorded elsewhere. I recently procured a few such checks, dated in 1909 and 1910, that shed light on the financial life of immigrant laborers from Armenia who lived in the USA a century ago.

Armenians arrived in America in large numbers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, fleeing persecution in Ottoman Turkey.² The great majority of these early immigrants were young males who made their way to the large industrial cities of the Northeast and Midwest to find jobs in factories or with the railways. Gradually, small to medium-sized communities were established. Lack of familiarity with the local language and customs tended to keep the immigrants together. Frequently, friends and relatives from a particular town or district in the old country would travel together or follow one another to the same city in America.

The typical newcomer envisioned a temporary stay; he planned to work for a few years, save some money, and use the savings to support his family in Armenia. Others hoped to return to their native towns with enough money to purchase a farm or small business. After the 1915 Armenian genocide, which resulted in the wholesale uprooting and destruction of the Armenian communities in Turkey,³ many came to the realization that return was impossible and settled permanently in the USA.

In the Midwest, Armenians settled in or near Detroit, Chicago, Grand Rapids, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Racine, Waukegan, and other cities where jobs were readily available in foundries, wire mills, automotive and machinery assembly, machine shops, and steel mills. In the St. Louis area, where the check illustrated below originated, Armenians lived in the city proper as well as the industrial suburbs of East St. Louis, Madison, and Granite City on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River where they worked in factories and steel mills.⁴ A small Armenian community still flourishes in Granite City and Belleville, Illinois.

Immigrant life was difficult. Wage rates for unskilled labor were generally only a few dollars a day, forcing the men to be frugal.⁵ They would share tenements with sometimes 6 or 10 men to a flat, one of whom might keep the house and prepare the meals while the others worked. If a man wished to send funds to his family, he would go to a nearby bank and purchase a bank draft which could then be mailed or carried to a relative in Armenia, where it would be cashed in the local currency.

One example of such a check from my collection (reduced from its original size) is illustrated here. It's large (about 9.5" x 4.6"), printed on thin tan paper, and plainly designed, with a label reading "*FOREIGN CHEQUE*" on the face. This is considered a bank draft or foreign bill of exchange; it instructs a named correspondent bank (the London branch of the Bank of Scotland) to pay 10 pounds sterling (close to \$50) to a named payee (Oskian Hanoian), on behalf of the Southern Illinois National Bank of East St. Louis, Illinois, where the check was purchased.

This check records the date of purchase, the payee's name, the check number, and successive endorsements (some in Armenian script) as the document made its way from Turkish Armenia to Constantinople to London and finally back to Illinois. Both Ottoman and British revenue stamps are affixed to the document. The fact that the names of both banks are pre-imprinted on the document indicates that these two banks had a standing arrangement to facilitate such foreign payments. The high check number suggests that foreign transfers occurred fairly often. Unfortunately, neither the identity of the

No. 71035

Cheque for £ 10. #

So. Illinois National Bank,
East St. Louis, Ill. U. S. A.

Pay to the order of Oskian Hanoian
the sum of *10 pounds* Sterling
value received

To Bank of Scotland,
London, England

By A. Hanoian
Cashier

So. Illinois National Bank

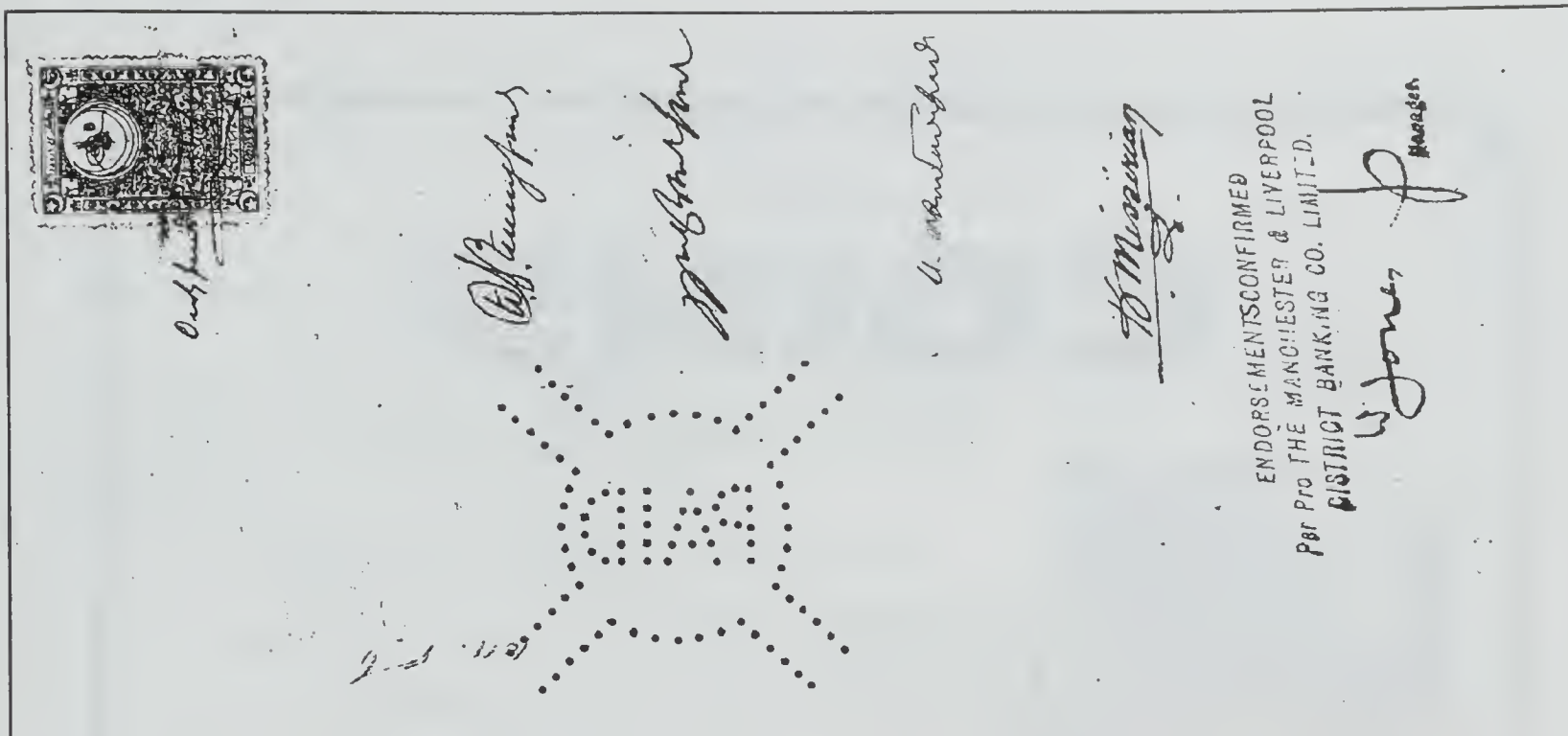
K. MISSIRLIAN
CONSTANTINOPLE
9226

K. MISSIRLIAN
MANCHESTER

TO OTHER LONDON OFFICES
FROM MANCHESTER & LIVERPOOL DISTRICT
BANKING COMPANY LIMITED, MANCHESTER

JUL 26 1909

Bank Draft #71035 of the Southern Illinois National Bank of East St. Louis, Illinois, for 10 pounds sterling, payable to the order of Oskian Hanoian, drawn on July 26, 1909. Note that the check was endorsed by the commercial firm of K. Missirlian, at its offices in Constantinople and later in Manchester, England. This document is reduced from its original (9.5 x 4.6") size.



“reverse of previous check”

purchaser (who undoubtedly resided in or near East St. Louis), nor the precise location of the recipient (in Armenia) is known.

Examination of a few checks enables us to reconstruct how the process worked. A check denominated in British pounds would be purchased from a bank in the community where the worker resided by paying the equivalent in U.S. currency plus probably a small fee. The check represented the savings from a few weeks of labor and represented a small fortune for the recipient. It was then mailed or carried to Armenia where it was cashed and endorsed at each stage, until it arrived at paying bank. The cancelled check was then later returned to the originating bank which stored it until the archives were dispersed to collectors.

This practice of sending transfer payments home was then and still is widely practiced by immigrant workers around the world. Other checks reflecting similar patterns of transfer payments could be located and studied. Considering that few traces of the life of immigrants are recorded, documents such as these assume an added significance as historical evidence. This check is an interest-

ing numismatic reminder that enables us to reconstruct the history of early Armenian Immigration to America.

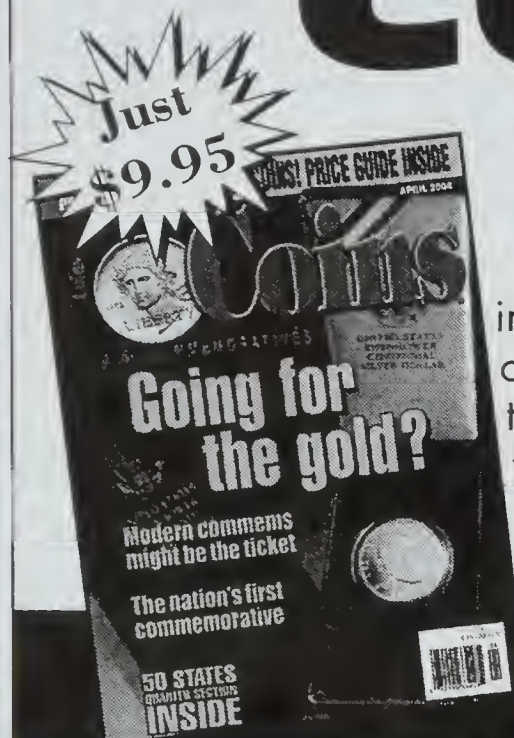
- 1) More information about checks and check collecting can be obtained from the American Society of Check Collectors, website address <http://members.aol.com/asccinfo>.
- 2) For surveys of Armenian immigration to the USA, see M. Vartan Malcom, *The Armenians in America* (Boston: The Pilgrim Press, 1919), and Robert Mirak, *Torn Between Two Lands: Armenians in America 1890 to World War I* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1983).
- 3) An excellent recent source is Peter Balakian's *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response* (New York: Harper Collins, 2003).
- 4) Many Armenian immigrants to this area were from Kghi, a town in the interior on the Armenian plateau, northeast of Kharpert. The checks, however, suggest that a wide variety of home towns were represented among workers in East St. Louis.
- 5) Mirak, pp. 83-87 provides figures indicating that the average wage rate during the first decade of the 20th century was around \$2 per day.

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Ye Old Irish Cumal

This article was originally published in the "Strange, but True" column of *"True, the Man's Magazine."* and was later reprinted in NOW News in 1963 -- we thought it might be of interest again.

The nicest kind of money to have around the house, among all the forms of currency that mankind has used, undoubtedly was the Irish cumal. It was not only the highest domination in ancient Ireland's monetary system, but was a useful thing in itself, for the cumal was a slave girl.

One cumal could be exchanged for 3 cows (if you preferred cows) or 72 sheep, or 216 screpalls (a screpall was a third of a sheep, equal to 3 pinginns), or 648 pinginns, which were bits of silver.

The usefulness of the cumal lay in grinding grain, weaving, cooking, and other things that probably comforted ageing bachelors who could afford to hoard this form of currency. Its existence reflected a social condition so common in Celtic times that St. Patrick -- himself once sold as a slave -- could complain that to pay for safe conduct through western Ireland he "had given away not less than the price of 15 humans." The cumal continued to be a medium of exchange until well into the

middle ages. Before then its name had become a standard, things being priced in fractions of a cumal in silver.

Ireland also imported English slaves, male and female... the latter usually guaranteed pregnant by traders... until a church council in 1171 condemned the whole system. Slavery gradually ceased and Norman-English coins replaced the old Irish values.

* * *

Old Coins

Holding an old coin in your hand can be a magical experience. It helps you imagine who might have owned it or how it might have been spent. Did a Roman merchant use it to buy spices or cattle?? or did a Union soldier spend it on a moustache cup?? Coins are touchable history, giving you a window on places and events from distant parts of the world and eras long past.

* * *

Federal Reserve Notes

Open up your wallet -- if you're carrying some cash on you, chances are its a Federal Reserve Note. Following the Federal Reserve Act of 1913, these notes became the dominant form of paper currency in America. Over the years, these notes have changed somewhat -- they have been reduced in size in 1929 and the words "In God We trust" were added in 1955.

Currently, the \$100 bill is the largest currency note in circulation. The largest bill ever circulated in the United States is the \$10,000 bill, which features the face of Salmon P. Chase, who was Abe Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury. If you have one, you can spend it, but most of them are in museums these days.

* * *

Milwaukee Numismatic Society & South Shore Member Visits Alaska

by Lee Hartz #1219

[The following article appeared in the Coin Club News section of the Fall 2004 issue of NOW News. Lee's article was inadvertently missed from the list of articles considered for competition in the Best Articles for 2004, so it is being reprinted again for consideration in this year's competition.]

Our second daughter, Karen, graduated and got her PhD from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks on Mother's Day this spring.

We flew to Fairbanks the day before, via Minneapolis and Anchorage. There were about a thousand graduates, although not all of them were in attendance (UA-F has only one graduation ceremony a year, so it covers the mid-winter grads and those who graduate after summer school as well as those graduating at the end of the spring semester). All the lesser degrees were presented by school, but the PhD's were left until the end, and they were all lumped together (all 14 of them). After the ceremony there was a reception for graduates, friends and family.

During a couple of day's sight-seeing in Fairbanks we hit a coin shop. In talking with one of the owners, he showed me photocopies of several different sheets of Alaska National Banknotes. He also gave a favorable response when I asked about the Alaska Mint in Anchorage. It seems that he knew the owners of the Mint.

In Anchorage, among other things, we stopped at the Alaska Mint (www.alaskamint.com). It's more of a store with a minting press towards the back, enclosed in glass. You can see them striking medals, and they also have a closed-circuit TV, aimed at the press. The press has up to 300 tons of pressure, enough to deal with typical silver rounds. They struck several while we were there -- proofs, so that it took 3 strikes per piece.



Alaskan Mint is more like a store

In the above photo you can see both the press through the glass and the striking area on the TV at the upper right.

While the Mint has the contract to strike official medals for the state of Alaska, they also strike a number of other things -- mostly in the one-ounce .999 silver round size, although they also do half-ounce size pieces.

Most of the items can be purchased in either uncirculated or proof. They are available in either normal .999 silver or .999 silver with 24k gold plating on the highlights. I bought the proof 2004 Northern Lights medal with the gold plating. On the plain silver version I could barely make out the Northern Lights.

On the gold version, the Northern Lights were gold plated, making them easy to see.

From Anchorage, we took a bus to Seward to catch the ship for the week-long Inner

Northern Lights Rev.



Passage cruise south to Vancouver, BC. Among other things, the ship went into Glacier Bay National Park, where we saw glaciers calving small chunks of ice. Nothing big enough to be an iceberg, but big enough to get the idea. The

ship stopped at Sitka, Juneau and Ketchikan before finishing up in Vancouver. In Juneau we took a whale watching cruise, seeing a number of whales and other sea animals.

While I didn't gamble, there was a casino aboard the ship, and I got a \$1 token from the cashier, showing the Holland-America logo.

We spent a day touring Vancouver and then flew home to Brown Deer. Our total trip was 16 days.



Northern Lights Obv.

How to Start a Coin Collection

Here's how coin experts suggest beginners start out to keep costs low and enjoyment high.

1. Get simple, inexpensive tools. A magnifying glass, coin holder and some elementary knowledge is all you need. The "Red Book - A Guide for U.S. coins 2005" is a must for all coin collectors and includes complete retail pricing for U.S. coins plus invaluable historical and technical information. The "Blue Book of U.S. Coins and 2005 North American Coins & Prices" are other books available at book stores or from coin dealers.
2. Be systematic. Choose one or two denominations or designs and stick to them. Coins of more recent vintage (such as the new state

quarters, nickels or Roosevelt dimes) should be easier to find. Later, you might go after the older designs, such as Indian pennies or buffalo nickels. Keep coins in simple holders with slots for each piece needed to complete a set. These are available at hobby or coin stores.

3. Join a coin club. Ask a dealer, local museum or library for club names or better yet, look in the "Coin Club Meeting" section of this newsletter for a coin club near you. Contact with experienced collectors can be a shortcut to knowledge.
4. Go get 'em. Start rifling all the pockets in your family, checking the coins in your piggy bank and pester friends to empty their pockets. You can make the rounds of local stores and banks, exchanging and re-exchanging bills for coins. You might buy stacks of "unsearched" coins from vending machine companies.
5. Handle coins carefully. Hold them by the edges to avoid putting fingerprints on the coin's surface. If a coin is very dirty, consult a dealer or experienced hobbyist before trying to clean it. Many cleansers can damage a coin's surface and cut its possible value.
6. Ask an established dealer for an appraisal if you think you've got a valuable coin. Put the coin in a plastic coin envelope.
7. Attend as many coin shows as you can -- and learn as much as you can about this great hobby!

Can You Make Money With Your Collection?

Talk to coin dealers and you'll find differing points of view on whether prices will keep climbing.

- * Yes, the number of coins issued each year is limited. Inevitably, as coins are worn out, the supply dwindles over the years. As the number of coin collectors keeps growing, the value of your holdings will eventually be driven up.

Sure, if prices go up too fast, they may drop back again... but the lull will be only temporary.

- * Prices may plummet; speculative fever has artificially inflated prices, and the number of collectors has increased dramatically because of the "50-State Quarters Program". The average collector, though, views collecting more as a casual pastime than as a serious investment.
- * Remember that speculating in coins is no game for amateurs. Unless you're shrewd, well-informed and lucky, you can get burned.
- * Learn to recognize the condition and quality of the coins you are collecting.
- * If you're a beginner, stick to coins that come into your house each day or can otherwise be obtained for little or no extra cost. As you gain experience, you will be better able to determine how much can wisely be invested in rarer pieces. Until then, don't be tempted by past performances or future promises.
- * Over the long haul, the value of a collection may very well go up. At the least, you've always got the face value. But the dollar value of a hobby isn't that important anyhow. What matters is the relaxation from daily worries and the sense of achievement you can get. With patience and caution, you can have those rewards -- and perhaps a modest profit to boot.

Remember...

Buy Quality; Not Quantity!



Patriotic Facts

1801 - The first public Fourth of July reception at the White House occurred.

1804 - The first Fourth of July celebration west of the Mississippi occurred at Independence Creek and

was celebrated by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

1805 - Boston has its first fireworks display; in Charleston, SC, the American Revolution Society and the Society of the Cincinnati meet at St. Phillips Church.

1866 - General George Meade watches 10,000 war veterans parade in Philadelphia; the Nashville Banner, in an editorial, urges its citizens not to celebrate the fourth.

1876 - Centennial celebrations (many are 3-day celebrations) occur throughout the US and abroad.

1884 - The formal presentation of the Statue of Liberty takes place in the Gauthier workshop in Paris.

1887 - First Fourth of July celebration in Yellowstone National Park takes place.

1912 - The new national flag with 48 stars is "formally and officially endowed".

1926 - The 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence takes place throughout the nation.

1960 - The 50th star American flag waves for the first time as Hawaii is given statehood.

1976 - The nation's Bicentennial occurs.



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Coin Club Meetings

Antioch, IL Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 3rd Monday of each month at Antioch Library, 757 Main St, Antioch, IL. Contact: James Koutsoures 847-395-0599.

Barron County Coin Club

Meets at 8:00 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the School Administration Bldg., 700 Augusta St., Rice Lake. Contact Barron County Coin Club, P.O. Box 256, Chetek, WI 54728.

Chippewa Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 on the 1st Thursday of each month in basement of Parks Rec. Bldg., 1300 1st Ave. in Eau Claire. E-mail 54701.com/coinclub or PO Box 2140 Eau Claire, WI 54702.

Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club

Meets the 3rd Thursday (April-October); at the Siren Sr. Center, 23943 State Road 35, Siren, 7:00 traders; 8:00 business meeting. Contact Gary Schauls, 2702 150th St., Luck, WI 54853-3811. Ph. 715-472-2002.

Fond du Lac Coin Club

Meets on the 2nd Tuesday (May thru Sept.) at the Senior Center East 2nd Street in Fond du Lac. Contact Fond du Lac Coin Club, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903

Fox Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Prime Time Club, 11150 Valley Road, Menasha.

Kenosha Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st Thursday of each month (except July & August) at 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Silverbrook Middle School, 120 N. Silverbrook Drive in West Bend. Youth meeting at 6:30. Contact: Dave Hunsicker 262-338-6064.

Lake County Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Warren Township Library, O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee, IL. Contact: Leslie Hanulla 847-662-1955.

Lakeland Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 6:45 the first and third Thursday of each month at Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff, WI. Contact Paul Engwall 715-358-5400.

Madison Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Monday of each month in Zimbrick Buick Community meeting room. Contact Tom Galway. Phone 608-238-1722.

Manitowoc Coin Club

No regular monthly meetings. An annual coin show is held in February. Contact Al Hrudka 920-775-4979.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mayfair Mall Community Room, 2500 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa (use #2 entrance, east side of mall). Contact Bruce Benoit, 2402 W. Manchester Ave., Milwaukee, 53221. Phone: 414-292-8128.

Nicolet Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at Stein Supper Club, 126 S. Adams in Green Bay.

Northwoods Stamp & Coin Club

Contact the club at P.O. Box 126, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

Ozaukee Coin Club

Meets the 2nd Thursday at the Rose Harms Legion Post, 1540 13th Ave. in Grafton. (Youth mtg. 6:30; General mtg. 7:00. Contact Ozaukee Coin Club, P.O. Box 832, Cedarburg, WI 53012.

Racine Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday at Castlewood Restaurant in Racine. Contact George Conrad 266-634-0833.

Rockford Area Coin Club

Contact: Rockford Area Coin Club, c/o Darrell Schultz, P.O. Box 294, Cherry Valley, IL 61016.

Sheboygan Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 every other Tuesday at Maple Lanes, 3107 S. Business Dr., in Sheboygan. Contact Sheboygan Coin Club, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53081.

South Shore Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at St. Roman's Church Annex, 20th & Bolivar in Milwaukee. Contact Walter Weis 414-384-7966.

Waukesha Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Waukesha Salvation Army offices at 445 Madison St., Waukesha. Contact Forrest Schumacher, 2300 Avalon Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186.

Wisconsin Dells Area Numismatic Group

Meets the 4th Sunday of each month at Chula Vista Resort, Wis. Dells. 6:30 social hour; 7:00 presentation. Contact Joe Kaminski 608-254-7908.

Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Liberty Bell Coin Shop, 130 N. 3rd Ave., Wausau. Contact Thad Streeter, 715-355-5437 or Bryn Kruse 715-842-9226.



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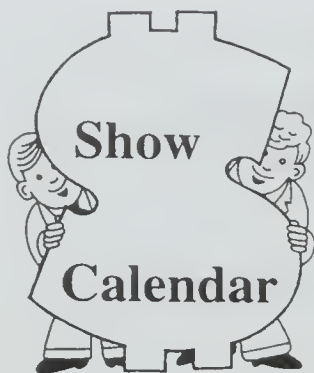
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Please send information on your upcoming show to the NOW News Editor, PO Box 155, Mazomanie, WI 53560. Include name of club, location of show, dates, hours, number of tables and your show/bourse chairman's name, address and phone.

June 18, 2005 - Rhinlander

Northwoods Stamp & Coin Show at James Williams Jr. High School, 915 Acacia Lane. Contact: Larry Marten, 3295 Hancock Lake Rd., Harshaw, WI 54529. Phone: 715-282-5636.

June 23-26, 2005 - Rosemont, IL

MidAmerica Coin Expo at Donald Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL. Contact: Kevin Foley 414-421-3484.

July 16, 2005 - Minoqua

Lakeland Coin & Stamp Show at Lakeland Union High School, Minoqua. (Hwy. 51 north to Minoqua to Hwy. 70 west, left on 70, west at stoplight to next stoplight, then left into H.S. parking lot). Hours: 9-3 p.m. 30 dealer tables. Contact: Jerry Jaegar, 6751 W. Kaubashine Rd., Hazelhurst, WI 54531. Ph. 715-358-9765.

July 27-31, 2005 - ANA

ANA World's Fair of Money Convention at Moscone West Convention Center, San Francisco, CA. (new location) Contact: ANA Convention Dept. 719-632-2646.

July 31, 2005 - Hayward

Hayward Coin Show at Hayward Veterans Community Center. Hours: 8-3 p.m. 10-15 dealers. Contact: Jerry Grade 715-558-2336.

August 6, 2005 - Siren

Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Show at Siren Senior Center, 23943 State Rd. 35, Siren, WI 54872. Bourse chm. Laverna Petersen, P.O. Box 108, Frederic, WI 54837.

August 7, 2005 - Wisconsin Rapids

Wisconsin Rapids Coin Show at the Rapids Mall, 555 West Grand Ave., Wisconsin Rapids. Hours: 9-4 p.m.

15 dealers. Bourse Chm. Gary Rosencrans, P.O. Box 31, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495. Ph. 715-421-0822.

August 12-14, 2005 - Baltimore, MD

Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention. Contact Ed Kuszmar Ph: 561-392-8551.

August 21, 2005 - Fond du Lac

Fond du Lac Coin Club's annual show at Holiday Inn, 625 W. Rolling Meadows Dr., Fond du Lac (new location). Hours: 9-4 pm. Contact: Chief Supply, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903-0254.

September 18, 2005 - Rockford, IL

Rockford Area Coin Club's 98th Semi-Annual Show at Holiday Inn, Rockford. 55 tables. Hours: 9-4 p.m. Bourse Chm. Don Smith, 100 W. Main, Rockton, IL 61072. Phone 815-624-0422.

September 24, 2005 - Sheboygan Falls

Sheboygan Coin Show at Municipal Hall, 375 Buffalo St., Sheboygan Falls, WI. Contact: Ed Rautmann, P.O. Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082. Ph. 920-893-5874.

October 2, 2005 - Milwaukee

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's Annual Coin Show at the American Serb Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 65 dealers. Bourse Info: David Hunsicker 262-338-6064.

October 16, 2005 - Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Club's fall show at Comfort Suites/Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St., Green Bay. Hours: 9-4 pm. 36 tables. Bourse chm. Roger Bohn, 1345 Ponderosa Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313. Ph. 920-499-7035.

October 23, 2005 - Cedarburg

Ozaukee Coin Club's 1st show at Circle B Recreation, 6261 Hwy. 60, Cedarburg (Hwy. 60 & I). Hours: 9-4 p.m. Show Contact: Nels Olsen 262-376-5182.

October 30, 2005 - Elgin, IL

Elgin Coin Club's 43rd Annual Show at V.F.W. Post 1307, 1601 Weld Rd., Elgin. Hours: 9-3 p.m. 32 tables. Contact: Don Cerny, P.O. Box 561, So. Elgin, IL 60177. Phone: 1-847-888-1449.

November 5, 2005 - Kenosha

Kenosha Coin Show at the Union Club, 3030 39th Ave., Kenosha. Hours: 9:30-4:00 p.m. Bourse chm. Jerry Binsfeld, 6040 39th Ave. Suite 7, Kenosha, WI 53142. Ph. 262-657-4653 (day); 262-654-6272 (eve).

November 6, 2005 - Madison

Madison Fall Coin Show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolen Dr., Madison. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 50 tables. Contact: John Krueger, 211 E. Main St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590. Ph. 608-834-4100.

November 11-13, 2005 - Baltimore, MD

Baltimore Coin & Currency Convention. Contact Ed Kuszmar Ph. 561-392-8551.

February 19, 2006 - Oshkosh

Numismatic Research Society's 23rd Annual Show. 9-5 p.m. Contact Numismatic Research Society, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

February 26, 2006 - Franksville

Racine Numismatic Society's Coin Show at South Hills Country Club, East Side of Hwy. 94, Frontage Rd., Franksville. Hours: 8:30-3 p.m. Bourse Chm. Jerry Binsfeld, 6040 39th Ave. Suite 7, Kenosha, WI 53142. Ph. 262-657-4653 (day); 262-654-6272 (eve.)

March 9-12, 2006 - Chicago, IL

12th Annual Chicago Paper Money Expo at Crowne Plaza - O'Hare, 5440 N. River Rd., Rosemont, IL. Contact: Kevin Foley 414-421-3484.

March 12, 2006 - Brookfield

Waukesha Coin Club's 37th Annual Show at American Legion Hall, 3245 N. 124th Street, Brookfield. Hours: 9-3 p.m. Contact: Forrest Schumacher 262-542-3934.

April 9, 2006 - Appleton

Fox Valley Spring Coin Show at Tornado's Hall, 2350 N. Casaloma Dr., near Fox Cities Stadium in Appleton. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 40 dealer tables. Show Chm. James Bayer, PO Box 1981, Appleton, WI 54912-1981. Ph. 920-739-1089.

April 20-22, 2006 - Milwaukee

South Shore Coin Show. Contact: Walter Weis. Phone: 414-384-7966.

April 23, 2006 - Wausau

Wisconsin Valley Coin Show at the Park Inn, 2101 N. Mountain Rd., Wausau. Hours: 9-5 pm. 40 dealer tables. Show chm. Thad Streeter, 5002 Tanya St., Shofield, WI 54476. Ph. 715-355-5437.

2006 - ANA

Denver, CO (date to be announced)

February 18, 2007 - Oshkosh

Numismatic Research Society's 24th annual Coin Show. Contact Numismatic Research Society, P.O. Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

March 11, 2007 - Brookfield

Waukesha Coin Club's 38th Annual Coin Show at American Legion Hall, 3245 N. 124th St. Brookfield. Contact: Forrest Schumacher Ph: 262-542-3934.

May 3-6, 2007 - Central States

St. Louis, MO

2007 - NOW

Numismatists of Wisconsin's 47th Annual Show hosted by Madison Coin Club. (date to be announced).

August 2007 - ANA

Milwaukee, WI (date to be announced).

February 17, 2008 - Oshkosh

Numismatic Research Society's 25th Anniversary Coin Show. Contact Numismatic Research Society, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54902.

August 20-24, 2008 - ANA

St. Louis, MO.

Have a Great Summer!

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